



Department of State

TE

206

EXCISE

SECRET

AN: D750124-0594

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06094 100428Z

20
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSQ-00

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY Amblay DATE 10/4/80

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

----- 066586

O 100355Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 240

SECRET PHNOM PENH 6094

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINC, PINT, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: ACTING PRESIDENT PLANS TO APPOINT CHAU SAU AS PRIME MINISTER

EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption received

from cable to C/ADTS

Cat. B - Text of cable

with classified areas

classified by 8/3

Cat. C - Caption and text

received by 8/3

Reviewed By: Elyah Kelly

Date: Sept. 18, 1977

1. I MET WITH ACTING PRESIDENT SAUKHAM KHOY AT HIS REQUEST MORNING APRIL 10. HE ASKED WHETHER I WAS AWARE OF THE RAPIDLY DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION AROUND PHNOM PENH. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED KC POSITIONS OPPOSITE CAPITAL ON EAST BANK OF MEKONG, WITHDRAWAL OF FANK NEAR AMMUNITION DEPOT, KC BREACH OF FANK LINES IN NORTHWEST AREA NEAR POCHENTONG AIRPORT AND PRESSURE ON NORTHERN SECTOR ON ROUTE 5. I SAID I HAD BEEN BRIEFED EARLIER IN THE MORNING ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

2. ACTING PRESIDENT THEN SAID THAT HE IS THINKING OF APPOINTING CHAU SAU, HEAD OF OPPOSITION DEMOCRATIC PARTY, AS PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE CHAU SAU HAS PLAN FOR BRINGING ABOUT AN IMMEDIATE CONTACT WITH OTHER SIDE TO BRING WAR TO AN END "IN HUMANITARIAN MANNER". WHAT DID I THINK OF IT, ACTING PRESIDENT ASKED. I REPLIED THAT IT IS NOT MY ROLE TO INJECT MYSELF INTO DOMESTIC POLITICAL SCENE. I SAID I WAS INTERESTED IN KNOWING KHMER GOVERNMENT DECISIONS AND NOT MERE RUMINATIONS. IF HE WANTED TO INFORM ME OF PRECISE KHMER DECISIONS, I WOULD REPORT THEM FORTHWITH TO WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, DECISIONS ON WHO SHOULD BE PRIME MINISTER AND WHAT ACTIONS GKR WISHES TO TAKE

SECRET

0315507030

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 06094 100428Z

VIS-A-VIS KMMERS ON OTHER SIDE HAS ENTIRELY UP
TO GKR. I POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS LATE IN THE GAME
AND THAT I REMAINED AT HIS DISPOSAL TO TRANSMIT ANY
MESSAGES HE WISHES ME TO CONVEY THROUGH MY CHANNELS.

3.1

BI, EB

HE (SAUKHAM KHOY) WILL CALL CABINET
TOGETHER WITHIN NEXT FEW HOURS TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO.
IN HIS OPINION, ONLY COURSE OF ACTION OPEN TO GKR
IS TO HAVE LONG BORET STEP DOWN, APPOINT CHAU SAU
AS PRIME MINISTER AND GIVE HIM MANDATE TO FIND A WAY TO
ARRANGE A "HUMANITARIAN SOLUTION" TO THE CONFLICT.

4. HE PROMISED TO KEEP
BE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN COURSE OF THE DAY.
DEAN

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED